

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims with the following listing of claims:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (previously presented): A process for producing a press-hardened component from a semi-finished product made of unhardened, hot-formable steel sheet, the process comprising:

forming a component blank from the steel semi-finished product using a cold-forming process, the component blank including a margin contour corresponding approximately to a contour of the press-hardened component and a margin edge;

trimming the component blank at the margin edge to the margin contour;

heating and press-hardening the trimmed component blank using a hot-forming tool; and

covering the press-hardened component blank with a corrosion-prevention layer in a coating step, wherein the coating step includes a thermal diffusion process.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 10, wherein the press-hardened component is a bodywork component.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 10, wherein the cold-forming process includes a drawing process.

Claims 13 and 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 10, further comprising cleaning the press-hardened component blank by dry cleaning prior to the coating step.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 10, further comprising blasting the press-hardened component blank with particles prior to the coating step.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 16, wherein the particles include glass particles.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 10, further comprising removing residues from the coating step from the coated component blank after the coating step.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 10, further comprising conditioning the coated component blank after the coating step.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A process for producing a press-hardened component from a semi-finished product made of unhardened, hot-formable steel sheet, the process comprising:

heating and press-hardening the semi-finished steel product using a hot-forming tool so as to form a press-hardened component blank, having a margin contour corresponding approximately to the press-hardened component and a margin edge;

trimming the press-hardened component blank at the margin edge to the margin contour;

covering the press-hardened, trimmed component blank with a corrosion-prevention layer in a coating step, wherein the coating step includes a thermal diffusion process.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 20, wherein the press-hardened component is a bodywork component.

Claim 22 and 23 (canceled).

Claim 24 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 20, further comprising cleaning the press-hardened component blank by dry cleaning prior to the coating step.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 20, further comprising blasting the press-hardened component blank with particles prior to the coating step.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 25, wherein the particles include glass particles.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 20, further comprising removing residues from the coating step from the coated component blank after the coating step.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 20, further comprising conditioning the coated component blank after the coating step.

Claims 29 and 30 (canceled).

Claim 31 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 10 wherein the thermal diffusion process including heating the component at 5 to 10 K/min.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 10 wherein the thermal diffusion process includes heating the component solely to approximately 300 degrees Celcius.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 20 wherein the thermal diffusion process including heating the component at 5 to 10 K/min.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The process as recited in claim 20 wherein the thermal diffusion process includes heating the component solely to approximately 300 degrees Celcius.

Claim 35 (new): The process as recited in claim 10 wherein the thermal diffusion process includes the steps of:

placing the press-hardened, trimmed component blank, a plurality of other press-hardened, trimmed component blanks and a zinc-containing powder into a drum and closing the drum;
introducing the drum to a coating installation; and
heating the drum at approximately 5 to 10 K/min to approximately 300 degrees Celsius and rotating the drum during the heating.

Claim 36 (new): The process as recited in claim 35 wherein after the step of heating the drum, the thermal diffusion process includes the step discharging the drum from the coating installation and cooling the drum in a cooling station.

Claim 37 (new): The process as recited in claim 20 wherein the thermal diffusion process includes the steps of:

placing the press-hardened, trimmed component blank, a plurality of other press-hardened, trimmed component blanks and a zinc-containing powder into a drum and closing the drum;

introducing the drum to a coating installation; and

heating the drum at approximately 5 to 10 K/min to approximately 300 degrees Celsius and rotating the drum during the heating.

Claim 38 (new): The process as recited in claim 37 wherein after the step of heating the drum, the thermal diffusion process includes the step discharging the drum from the coating installation and conditioning the drum and the press-hardened, trimmed component blanks at a temperature of approximately 200 degrees Celsius for approximately one hour.